

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all previous versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-57. (previously canceled)

58. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid having at least 80% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523);
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523), lacking its associated signal peptide;
- ~~(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523);~~
- ~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
- ~~[(e)] (c) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 221 (SEQ ID NO:522);~~
- ~~[(f)] (d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 221 (SEQ ID NO:522); or~~
- ~~[(g)] (e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487,~~

wherein the nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that is a mitogen for inner ear supporting cells.

59. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 58 having at least 85% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523);
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523), lacking its associated signal peptide;
- ~~(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523);~~

(d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

[(e)] (c) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 221 (SEQ ID NO:522);

[(f)] (d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 221 (SEQ ID NO:522); or

[(g)] (e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487,

wherein the nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that is a mitogen for inner ear supporting cells.

60. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 58 having at least 90% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523);

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523), lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523);~~

(d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

[(e)] (c) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 221 (SEQ ID NO:522);

[(f)] (d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 221 (SEQ ID NO:522); or

[(g)] (e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487,

wherein the nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that is a mitogen for inner ear supporting cells.

61. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 58 having at least 95% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523);

- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523), lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523);~~
- (d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
- [(e)] (c) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 221 (SEQ ID NO:522);
- [(f)] (d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 221 (SEQ ID NO:522); or
- [(g)] (e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487,

wherein the nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that is a mitogen for inner ear supporting cells.

62. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 58 having at least 99% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523);
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523), lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523);~~
- (d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
- [(e)] (c) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 221 (SEQ ID NO:522);
- [(f)] (d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 221 (SEQ ID NO:522); or
- [(g)] (e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487,

wherein the nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that is a mitogen for inner ear supporting cells.

63. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523);
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523), lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523);~~
- (d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
- [(e)] (c) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 221 (SEQ ID NO:522);
- [(f)] (d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 221 (SEQ ID NO:522); or
- [(g)] (e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487.

64. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 63 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523).

65. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 63 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 222 (SEQ ID NO:523), lacking its associated signal peptide.

66. (canceled)

67. (canceled)

68. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 63 comprising the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 221 (SEQ ID NO:522).

69. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 63 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 221 (SEQ ID NO:522).

70. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 63 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487.

71. (cancel)

72. (cancel)

73. (cancel)

74. (previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 58.

75. (previously presented) The vector of Claim 74, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

76. (previously presented) A host cell comprising the vector of Claim 74.

77. (previously presented) The host cell of Claim 76, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.